



Mitchell E. Daniels, Jr.
Governor

Judith A. Monroe, M.D.
State Health Commissioner

Indiana State Department of Health

An Equal Opportunity Employer

**For Immediate Release
June 9, 2008**

**Contact: Ken Severson
(317) 233-7104**

HOOSIERS IN FLOODED AREAS URGED TO GET WELL WATER TESTED

INDIANAPOLIS – Flooding throughout South Central Indiana has called into question the safety of many well systems. Individuals on well systems are urged to get their well water tested before starting to use the water again. Health officials recommend using bottled water for drinking, cooking, brushing teeth, and bathing until well water has been tested.

The Indiana State Department of Health will provide water sampling kits to local health departments. Individuals on well systems may obtain sampling kits from their local health departments. Collection and shipping of the kits for testing will be the responsibility of the individual and not the local health department.

State health officials say time is crucial for anyone wanting to have their well water tested. No more than 30 hours may have elapsed from the time a sample is collected to the time that sample is received by a lab for testing. Samples received after 30 hours cannot be tested.

In order to ensure deliver time within the 30 hours required for testing, individuals may wish to use a private courier system, such as United Parcel Service (UPS) or Federal Express. Individuals also may take the sample to the State Department of Health lab in person between 8:15 a.m. and 4:45 p.m. (local time), Monday through Friday. The lab is located at 550 W. 16th Street in downtown Indianapolis. The State Department of Health has waived the cost for analyzing samples, and results should be available within a few days of receipt. Positive test results will be reported by phone, and negative test results will be sent by mail. Individuals with questions on their well water results can contact the lab at (317) 921-5522.

Individuals can also have a private lab test their well water samples. The lab will analyze the sample and return the results to the collector, usually within 72 hours. The cost for this service will likely be between \$25 and \$30. A list of Indiana State Department of Health-certified microbiology drinking water laboratories can be obtained on the Indiana State Department of Health Web site at: www.in.gov/isdh/22450.htm.

Information on how to disinfect contaminated well water is available on the State Department of Health's Web site at: www.statehealth.IN.gov by clicking on the flood sanitation tips link at the top of the page.

###